



# FOCUS

SUMMER 2009

REPORT FROM CITY HALL

## San Bruno City Council

### Mayor

Larry Franzella

### Vice Mayor

Jim Ruane

### Councilmembers

Ken Ibarra

Irene O'Connell

Rico E. Medina

### City Manager

Connie Jackson

### City Clerk

Carol Bonner

### City Treasurer

John Marty

### City of San Bruno

### Online Address:

[www.sanbruno.ca.gov](http://www.sanbruno.ca.gov)

We welcome your comments. Please call Terry Jackson at (650) 616-7013, or email her at [tjackson@sanbruno.ca.gov](mailto:tjackson@sanbruno.ca.gov).

## Farmers' Market Comes to San Bruno

A large crowd was on hand to welcome the first Farmers' Market to San Bruno on Sunday, June 21. Sponsored by the San Bruno Chamber of Commerce, the Pacific Coast Farmers' Market Association held a very successful inaugural event. Over 20 booths offered a variety of fruits, vegetables, flowers, and other popular items. The Farmers' Market is located on San Mateo Avenue between Jenevein and Sylvan Avenues every Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Farmers' Market will continue through October 18. Please support our own local Farmers' Market.



# City Offices Close Due to Work Furlough

As part of the City's actions to balance revenues and expenditures this year, most City employees have agreed to a six-day unpaid furlough. Beginning August 14, 2009, City business offices will be closed and services curtailed the second Friday of every other month through June 2010.

Police and Fire emergency services will not be affected as the furlough will reduce employee compensation without additional time-off. Essential work for Cable Television, Parks, and Public Works will be performed by employees on standby, similar to weekends and holidays. City Hall will be closed, and there will be no building or encroachment

permit inspections on furlough days. The Library will also be closed, and Recreation and Senior Services will be similarly affected.

City employees agreed to the six-day furlough as part of the need for budget savings in 2009-10. The work furlough amounts to a 2.3% pay cut for affected employees.

Signs and other notices will be posted to advise all residents of City facility closures and service changes during the furlough period. Furlough closures will be on the following Fridays: August 14, October 9, December 11, February 12, April 9, and June 11.

## Announcing the Thirteenth Annual Beautification Awards

### ENTRY DEADLINE: WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

The San Bruno Beautification Task Force is proud to present the Thirteenth Annual Beautification Awards. This program is designed to recognize the efforts of residents and businesses to improve and maintain the physical appearance of our community. Friday, August 21, 2009 – 5 p.m.

### JUDGING: AWARDS:

All San Bruno residential properties, schools, and commercial/industrial properties. You may nominate your own property.

Properties may not win in the same category for two consecutive years.

A panel of volunteers will judge the entries.

The number and ranking of awards will be at the discretion of the judges. The presentation of awards will be made at the October 13, 2009, City Council meeting.

To submit a nomination, you can do one of the following:

- Fill out the form at [www.sanbruno.ca.gov/beautification\\_form.asp](http://www.sanbruno.ca.gov/beautification_form.asp) and submit it online.
- Print out the form at the above Website address, and submit it in person or by mail to the City Clerk's Office, 567 El Camino Real, San Bruno, CA 94066.
- Fax your nomination form to (650) 589-7807.

For questions, please call the City Clerk's Office at (650) 616-7058.

## MOVIES IN THE PARK

Back by popular demand for the second year, the City of San Bruno and its Culture & Arts Commission are proud to present our Movies in the Park series.

**Movies will begin at dusk in San Bruno City Park, at approximately 8:00 p.m. on the following Fridays:**

September 4	Raiders of the Lost Ark (PG)
September 11	Mamma Mia (PG-13)
September 18	Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (PG)
September 25	The Music Man (G)

For more information, contact John Alita, Assistant Library Services Director, at (650) 616-7017.

# The Second Downtown and Transit Corridors Plan Community Workshop

The second of three public workshops for the Downtown and Transit Corridors Plan was held at the Tongan Methodist Church on El Camino Real on Saturday, May 16, 2009, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Vice Mayor Jim Ruane welcomed the 35 community members in attendance and thanked them for coming out on that glorious, warm Saturday morning to participate in this important planning effort.

The workshop began with a presentation covering the project background. The participants then went on a walking tour of Downtown, while City staff and the consultant team gathered their ideas and comments regarding key areas as experienced by pedestrians.

Afterwards, the participants gathered in small groups to discuss ideas regarding four sub-areas—T.O.D./Station Areas, El Camino Real, San Bruno Avenue, and San Mateo Avenue. Each group was given photo cards representing different land uses, building heights, design characteristics, and public improvements, which they placed on a map of the area. The participants then shared their results with the rest of the large group. The bullets below provide a small sample of the many comments that were generated:

- El Camino Real and San Mateo Avenue should be a major gateway with a new plaza to host community activities, and an improved intersection providing access to downtown.
- San Mateo Avenue should be a retail corridor activated by evening activities, historic buildings, a unique mix of businesses, community events, attractive sidewalk design features, and a better retail mix, but maintain the current scale of buildings, allowing 2-3 stories.
- The future Caltrain station area at San Bruno and San Mateo Avenues should be a bold focal point with mixed-use office developments, well connected to local destinations. It should include

high-quality station design and convenient transportation connections. It should include a gateway element and allow higher densities and building heights.

- El Camino Real should be improved with additional landscaping, pedestrian-oriented improvements such as a bike lane and safer crossings, and an environment that is an inviting place for visitors and residents alike. Higher densities and building heights should be considered, especially in proximity to the Caltrain station.
- San Bruno Avenue should be a mixed-use, resident-serving neighborhood that is also a pleasant gateway into the City.



The next step in the Downtown and Transit Corridors Plan will be preparation of the draft plan that incorporates the community's ideas. The draft plan will address land use, circulation, and bicycle and pedestrian amenities, densities and intensities, building heights, and public

realm improvements, supported by preliminary economic strategies, as well as draft development standards and design guidelines. The preliminary draft plan will be presented to the community at the third Community Workshop in the fall of 2009. The workshop will allow community members to give their feedback on the draft plan and incorporate their ideas in the development of the final plan document.

A summary of the community workshops, a library of documents, and information about upcoming events is available on the project Website: [www.sanbrunotransitcorridorsplan.org](http://www.sanbrunotransitcorridorsplan.org). If you have any questions or comments, please contact Mark Sullivan, Housing and Redevelopment Manager, at (650) 616-7053 or [msullivan@sanbruno.ca.gov](mailto:msullivan@sanbruno.ca.gov).



# City Budget Approved

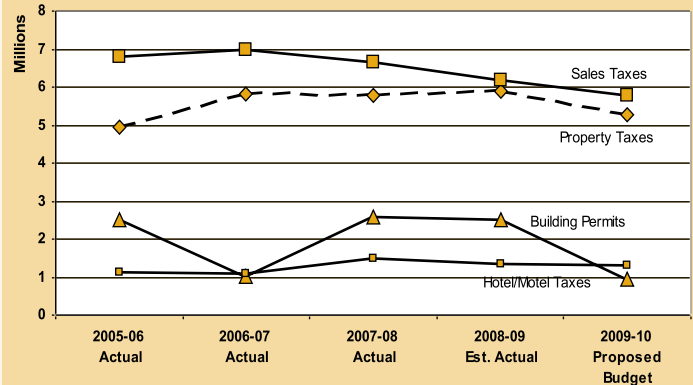
Did the community want longer police response times for non-emergency calls, demand reduced hours at the library, cutback in park landscape and open-space maintenance? No. The community did not seek nor suggest any of the above, but these are among the service reductions the City Council reluctantly found necessary in adopting the General Fund, Special Revenue Funds, Enterprise Funds, and Capital Improvement Program Budget for 2009-10.

Preparation of this budget has been highly challenging due to the very real and difficult fiscal challenges that face the City during the current economic recession. San Bruno residents, like many others throughout the region and the country, have been heavily impacted by multiple adversities, such as higher unemployment, foreclosures, lower property values, and the decline in economic confidence. The City itself is similarly impacted. A significant drop in tax and other revenues and the growing demands for the services critical to our residents present serious challenges.

## Budget Reduction Service Impacts: General Fund Departments

- City Hall and other facilities closed due to work furlough
- Increased Police response times to non-emergency calls for services
- Decrease in available patrol time to generate officer-initiated activity
- Increase in referrals to online Police report system
- Reduction of public service hours at the Library on Fridays: now open from 1pm to 5pm, effective August 7
- Reduce support for South San Francisco's Project Read program
- Reduce landscape and open-space maintenance
- Reduce/eliminate over-the-counter Community Development plan check
- Increase Community Development plan check turnaround time

## 5-Year Summary: Taxes & Building Permit Revenues



On June 23, 2009, the City Council adopted the 2009-10 budget of nearly \$83,000,000, including the Water, Wastewater, and Cable Enterprise Funds, and the Citywide Capital Improvement Program. For 2009-10, the total projected revenue for the General Fund—for police, fire and paramedic, library, recreation, and street and park maintenance services—totals \$30,967,300. Revenues are projected overall to be nearly \$2,500,000 less than the adopted 2008-09 budget. This amount is 7% less than the revenue from just one year ago. Historic comparisons show that projected revenues for 2009-10 are lower than at any time since 2005-06.

Of the \$30,967,300 in General Fund revenue, approximately 40% is generated from three sources—sales tax, property tax, and TOT or hotel/motel tax. These are projected to decline in 2009-10. For the past several years, building-permit fees have

## Sample of Department Reductions

*[Excluding Staff Positions]*

Part-time Salaries <i>[Recreation, Library]</i>	\$ 61,900
Management Employee Benefits	133,000
Supplies	302,400
Utilities	43,200
<i>[Includes Gas &amp; Oil and communications]</i>	
Contract Services	425,300
<i>[Professional &amp; other contractual services]</i>	
Staff Training & Professional Development	48,200
Legal Expenses	41,000

# Amid Economic Crisis

represented important departmental revenue in the General Fund. In 2007-08, the City received over \$2,500,000 in building-permit fee revenue. With the economy in turmoil, building activity has slowed and, in some areas, stopped. Due to continuing overall economic constraints, the proposed amount of building-permit fee revenue for 2009-10 is only \$940,000.

Total expenditures are proposed at \$31,735,300, which is \$2,500,000 or a 7% reduction from 2008-09. Nearly 40% of the total reduction comes from the elimination of 10 staff positions. Additional expenditure cuts totaling over \$1,500,000 were found in every expenditure category in the General Fund. Some examples are shown in the charts with this article.

## Budget Further Reduces City Workforce

Significant reductions in budgeted personnel costs are the largest single proposed reduction in 2009-10 expenditures as compared to 2008-09. Anticipating the financial constraints that need to be addressed for the coming fiscal year, the City Council met in January 2009 to develop the direction for preparation of the budget. The City Council directed that no employee salary increases would be provided and that reduction in the number of full-time City staff positions would be requested, along with unpaid furlough days

A total of 10 positions were eliminated in the General Fund. Since the positions were vacant for several months, the City was able to avoid layoffs by eliminating them. Savings of nearly \$900,500 in General Fund expenditures come from this reduction of the City workforce.

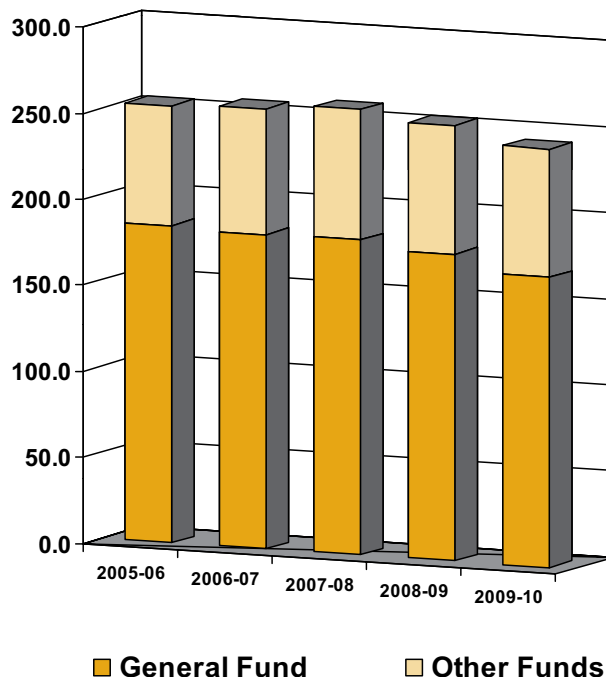
As an organization providing services, nearly 65% of the total General Fund expenditures are

personnel-related—workers providing the police, fire, library, recreation, and street and park maintenance services. As adopted, the 168 full-time equivalent positions in the General Fund remain less than the number that were authorized in 2003-04. Reviews of City budgets from the 1970s, thirty and more years ago, demonstrate that the number of staff in nearly all City departments was equal to or more than the number of staff currently employed by the City.

### Eliminated Staff Positions

- |   |            |
|---|------------|
| • Police Department   | \$ 461,900 |
| – 3 Police Officers; Public Safety Dispatcher; Executive Assistant                                |            |
| • Community Development   | 149,200    |
| – Senior Planner; Plan Check Engineer   |            |
| • Public Services   | 74,900     |
| – Service Manager reorganization  |            |
| • Community Services  | 214,500    |
| – Accounting and Customer Service Representative; Lead Maintenance Worker; Library Assistant I/II |            |

### 5-Year Summary: Personnel Summary



# Year in Review: Highlights and Accomplishments

While much of the City's work effort over the last six months of 2008-09 has been focused on monitoring and managing the effects of the current economic situation and the current year budget, work continued on important initiatives to move San Bruno forward and to provide lasting improvements to our service delivery and infrastructure.

Important services continued as the City made changes to the method of service delivery, began using new equipment and technologies, and coordinated with other agencies and organizations to assure necessary services continued to meet the needs of the community. During 2008-09, the City:

- Completed final review and adoption of a new General Plan and environmental impact report to establish the City's policy for the physical development of the community over the next 20 years.
- Enhanced the beneficial use of technology with the establishment of a digital building plan submittal and plan check process.
- Completed update to the City's Website to improve availability and use of information on the site to inform and assist the public.
- Initiated a comprehensive Downtown and Transit Corridors Plan strategic planning process with meetings of a steering committee consisting of broad community representation and two community visioning workshops.
- Conducted outreach within the community to assist parents and community members to recognize and address potential youth involvement in gang activity.
- Collaborated with administrators at the City's two high schools in an effort to provide safe campuses.
- Implemented security plan providing patron safety at new 20-screen theater.
- Developed and implemented a comprehensive package of ordinances addressing maintenance and management of vacant, foreclosed, and distressed properties to avoid negative impacts to neighborhoods resulting from the downturn in the housing market.
- Completed fire and life safety hazard inspection of all automobile repair facilities in the City and achieved correction of over 90% of the violations identified.
- Renewed operating agreements for Fire Chief, Battalion Chief, and truck coverage to assure continuation of the shared services arrangements with the City of Millbrae.
- Coordinated with other cities in the region in discussion about expansion of shared services in other critical service areas.
- Provided emergency responses to an unprecedented number of California wildfires in coordination with the State Office of Emergency Services.
- Recruited and welcomed two new Department Directors to the City's executive staff team.
- Effectively initiated consolidation of the previously separate Parks and Recreation Services and Library Services to a new Community Services Department, permanently eliminating one Department Director position.
- Replaced street light fixtures on San Mateo Avenue to improve reliability of the street lighting and safety in the downtown.
- Provided pedestrian and traffic safety improvements in several neighborhoods, including installation of pedestrian safety warning signs and flashing crossing lights on San Bruno Avenue at Easton and at 6th Avenue.
- Initiated a regular Clean Downtown program, including sidewalk power-washing and daily litter removal on San Mateo Avenue.
- Continued community service programs to bring residents together and to serve families, including five evening concerts at the Rotary Pavilion with up to 300 people attending each and increased Recreation day camp participation to over 169 children.
- Established an online recreation program registration system to enhance customer convenience.
- Continued City recognition as a Tree City USA and held annual Arbor Day tree-planting event.
- Successfully completed a full year of in-house meal preparation for the daily lunch program at the Senior Center and continued recreation, social, and support services to older adults 50+ throughout the community.
- Completed open-space vegetation and tree maintenance in several key areas of the community to address hazardous conditions.
- Increased Library material circulation to record levels for the third consecutive year.
- Successfully competed for a Community Development Block Grant to install a lift to provide ADA access to the second floor of the Library building and improve services to persons with disabilities.

# FOCUS ON . . .

## New Regulations for Residential Vehicle Repair

The City Council recently approved new regulations related to vehicle repair at residential properties throughout the City. The new Municipal Code section is intended to allow residents to do a reasonable amount of work on their own cars without creating excessive impacts on the neighbors. The changes became effective on May 28, 2009.

The new Municipal Code section specifies what types of auto repair are permitted on a residential property and where that work can take place. For example, it is okay for an occupant of a house to do preventative maintenance work on their own vehicle in the driveway or garage of their home. This includes changing the oil, and replacing the battery, fan, belts, or hoses. More intensive activities, such as working on engines, transmissions, suspension parts, electrical equipment, or minor auto body repair must be completed in an enclosed garage. A few activities are prohibited completely at residential properties. Residents are not allowed to use a

torch or weld with an open flame, or paint an entire vehicle at their homes.

There are also several general rules that apply to all vehicle repairs at residences. Repairs can only be done by an occupant of the home, or a member of their immediate family. Vehicle repair businesses cannot be operated out of a home under any circumstances. The property must be cleaned up on a daily basis, meaning that all parts, tools, fluids, and anything else related to car repair must be put away out of public view. Please remember that used motor oil and other vehicle fluids must be disposed of properly. It is a violation of Federal and City laws to put these fluids into the stormdrains.

You can find out the details of the proposed ordinance by reading Section 12.100.055 online at <http://qcode.us/codes/sanbruno>. Or if you have questions, you can contact Laura Russell, Associate Planner, at (650) 616-7038 or [lrussell@sanbruno.ca.gov](mailto:lrussell@sanbruno.ca.gov).

## Year in Review *continued ...*

- Completed full transition to an all-digital cable television system in October 2008, well in advance of the June 2009 FCC deadline, resulting in the expansion of programs and services available through the system.
- Coordinated with Caltrain in the completion of intersection improvements at San Mateo, Huntington, and San Bruno Avenues, and actively monitored progress through Caltrain toward full completion of design plans for the Grade Separation project in 2010 and initiation of construction in 2011.
- Aggressively monitored and pursued applications for Federal Economic Recovery Stimulus funding for a variety of infrastructure projects.
- Completed critical utility, infrastructure, and facility rehabilitation and improvement projects including:
  - o Replacement of the Maple Water Pump Station
  - o Abandonment of the Crystal Springs Wastewater Pump Station
  - o Repaving of neighborhood streets throughout the community
  - o Resurfacing of the City Park tennis courts
  - o Full completion of the Rollingwood Sewer Relief System upgrade
  - o Rehabilitation of Well 20 to restore full pumping capacity at 600 gpm
  - o Replacement of the room partition, interior painting, and roof repairs at the Senior Center.
  - o Remodel of the Fire Station 52 living quarters
  - o Installation of automatic fire alarm system at City Hall
  - o Renovation and installation of technology equipment at the Emergency Operations Center to support disaster response and recovery operations.

**City of San Bruno**  
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# Concerts in the Park

The City of San Bruno Recreation Services Division is gearing up for our annual "Concerts in the Park." The concert series is designed to bring families and community together to enjoy local talent in our beautiful Park. Concerts are held at the Rotary Pavilion, located in San Bruno City Park (Crystal Springs and Oak Avenue). All concerts are free and open to the public.

## Concerts will be held on Friday evenings at 6:00 p.m.

August 7	Livewire (Dance Party Band)
August 14	Unauthorized Rolling Stones (Tribute Band)
August 21	Cocktail Monkeys (Classic Rock, Pop & Variety)
August 28	Dave Crimmen (50's Rock and Roll)

Sponsors of the concert series include the City of San Bruno, San Bruno Garbage Company, San Bruno Lions Club, San Bruno Mothers Club, Southwood Plumbing & Heating Inc., and Worldwide Chiropractic.

For more information, please contact the Recreation Division at (650) 616-7180.



## Frequently Called Numbers (Area Code 650)

Building Permits	616-7076
Business Taxes & Licenses	616-7083
Cable TV	616-3100
City Clerk	616-7058
City Council	616-7060
City Manager	616-7056
Code Enforcement	616-7074
Finance	616-7080
Fire - Business	616-7096
Graffiti Hotline	616-7141
Human Resources	616-7055
Library	616-7078
Recreation	616-7180
Parks	616-7195
Planning	616-7074
Police - Business	616-7100
Public Works/Corp. Yard	616-7160
Public Works/Engineering	616-7065
Senior Center	616-7150
Streets	616-7161
Utility Billing	616-7086
<b>EMERGENCY</b>	<b>9 1 1</b>